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AT 'SCONSETT-ON-SEA.

LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FISH HOUSES AND BARN. The Mysteries of Curling Codfish—The 'Sconsett Cottage' as Maritime Architectural Creation on Land—A \$90 Club House—Taking a Rest.

This is codfish time at "Sconsett." 'Sconsett' is eight miles from Nantucket, eight miles from a post office, eight miles from a store, eight miles from a church, eight miles from a regularly kept Sunday school, eight miles from almost everything except a sky, wind, sheep, woodchicks, codfish, squid, clams and a serene quiet. Some of our more devoted people do not fish on Sunday. They stay at home, wash, shave, put on a clean shirt, go out, talk codfish behind the barn or fish houses and get back ready for Monday morning. There isn't much difference here between a fish house and a barn. We cure codfish and wash it together. Just now we're taking in the codfish crop. The harvesters are on the sea early in the morning twenty dories strong, one man and two boys to a dory. Codfish are speared to dry and cure in the sun like hay. If the sun is too hot it cools them. The fish falls all to pieces. If the air is damp it spoils them. They must be taken in at night. They must be taken in if a fog comes up. A codfish must be handled from a dozen to twenty times before it is cured. We catch pollock as well as codfish. Pollock look like big bluefish or "horse mackerel." The pollock is a top water fish. The cod lies on the bottom. We cure pollock and pass them off for cod. We don't like to if we can help it.

There are now about twenty able bodied men on 'Sconsett' mostly cod fishers. Those who are not fishers are carpenters, blacksmiths, cooper, millwright, and other trades. The carpenters are busy on the summer cottages. Of these there are over 100, all empty, including the two churches and three hotels. In four weeks' time 1,000 people will be here, talking in cargoes of salt air and salt water. The 'Sconsett cottage' is a maritime architectural creation on land. It is the device of the fishermen whose lives were passed on schooners and snappers. Naturally, their heads were full of "bunkers," "jockers," "walkers" and "company ways." So they built a house that had the "bunkers" and "company ways." The sleeping room of the 'Sconsett cottage' is simply a terra firma stateroom. The windows are "stern ports." The kitchen is a "galley," and the cockpit, accessible by a movable compromise, is a "deck" and stairs, is the "cove" next of the whaler.

We have a store. It is open but three days in the week, and then but a few hours each day. That store and the town pump are the only public institutions in 'Sconsett.' But the store is never open nights save while summer cottages are here for generations. It has given in winter the male population of 'Sconsett' no place in the evening to hang their legs over cracker barrels, smoke, chew tobacco and barter fish yarns. We could endure this condition of things no longer. Last winter we clubbed together and built a club house to meet in the night.

It cost \$50, and consists of one room, a stove, a lamp, twenty chairs, two barrels, one big table, two small ones, a water pail and tin cup, an old gun and a half acre sand box, which our tobacco chewers are expected to use to aim at. It is a very nice club, the club meets and the pipes are all in full blast, the smoke is thick enough for a fog on the "Banks." The club house also answers for our postoffice. Anybody who comes in from Nantucket brings the mail. The letters and papers are spread on the table, and whoever they are for comes to get them. The post-office department runs itself here.

The 'Sconsett' women don't approve of the club house. Before it was built the 'old man' had to stay at home, because there was no place to go. Now he's got a new port he stays out at night. It is a very nice club, the club meets and the pipes are all in full blast, the smoke is thick enough for a fog on the "Banks." The club house also answers for our postoffice. Anybody who comes in from Nantucket brings the mail. The letters and papers are spread on the table, and whoever they are for comes to get them. The post-office department runs itself here.

'Sconsett' is a place that, through some combined influence and result of sea, sky, earth and air, you can forget what a misery it may be to live, stop thinking and simply exist. It is a place where dreams are made, and you can live in one if you want to. You get up in the morning, eat your breakfast, then sit on the bench and watch the waves. This sea and life is so pleasant, waking, doing, and living a most untramped thing we call mind, with all its cares, fears and anxieties, is torn, porally suspended. Things come and go before you in a dazy sort of way. The few men on the beach 100 yards from you are hurried into vague and uncertain existence by the misty atmosphere. You can't hear them and only half see them. You dream thus, thinking nothing until roused by a vigorous appetite for a 12 o'clock dinner. You eat as you used to when a boy or a girl of 15. Then you go once more to your bench to dream new and approve the luxury of existence to an anaemic, who, when he has swallowed a cow, has nothing to do but let himself alone and let his stomach digest that cow. No pot has yet sprung of the calm beatitudes of a healthy digestion, because people now give themselves so little time to digest. There's too much pure intellect without stomach. In 'Sconsett' the genius of the place reminds you that there is a union, a copartnership and a wedding between the mind and the stomach. Here the intellect can rest and the stomach has a chance to take a hand in the work of digesting—Frederic Malford in New York Graphic.

Traveling in Madagascar. The delights of traveling in Madagascar have been experienced by M. Myre de Vilers, who has been exploring all the high plateau in the territory of the Sultan of Sakalava. The gentleman absent himself at least for a full week every month to make tours. His last has been in the Belotse country. It took him six days to get there, as traveling in a fiane or palanquin is the only mode of locomotion known in the interior of the island. He had hardly started from Antananarivo when an express was sent after him, but as he kept ahead of it, his facilities for journeying being greater, it did not come up to him until he reached the district that he wanted to explore. Directly he received the communication which the messenger was charged to make he retraced his steps. This was in the rainy season, and he had to go through primeval forests. Every moment the bearers of his palanquin set him down in the mud, which, thick and pasty as it was, was washed off immediately by the heavy rain, while the time he was lost in squelching. Although Madagascar is so hot, the food is obtained with extreme difficulty, even on the most beaten track in the island, which lies between Tamatave and the capital. Fowls and eggs are not to be found, nor in many places beef, and rice is all that can be procured.—Chicago Times.

Lost in Admiration. A little was watching a particularly brilliant sunset, where all the colors of the spectrum gave a glowing radiance to the heavens. She stood still for a few minutes, lost in admiration, and then with a burst of inspiration asked, "Oh, mamma, is that inland lightning?"—Harper's Bazar.

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